



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### New Home for Small Businesses

US supported Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED) to open in Skopje

A Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED) will open soon in Macedonia. Part of the international network of CEED development centers, the goal of CEED Macedonia will be to encourage the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. The center is being established with support from the American people through the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

"Regional initiatives like this one support one of our main goals— to create jobs," said Patricia Rader, USAID Mission Director. "It's high time Macedonia joined the CEED network."

The key activity of the CEED development centers is to enable entrepreneurs and their management teams to grow their businesses through organized practical training, a networking program and the international integration of entrepreneurs into the global business environment.

CEED is devoted to promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial values to the broader society in the region. The CEED network already has centers operating in Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia and Montenegro, as well as a partner center in Russia. In the future, the CEED network will expand to include other countries in Eastern Europe.

CEED Macedonia will provide training and network services that target an entrepreneurs' specific growth needs, deliver learning using local case studies, and feature entrepreneurs as trainers to leverage their 'real world' business experience. Whether in a 'training' or 'network' setting, CEED aims to foster discussion of common issues, and to provide the opportunity for interaction, networking, and peer-learning.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 25 projects worth \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

